

Interactive vs Batch Programs

- Cobol suited for developing both types of programs

Interactive programs

- Accept input data from keyboard
- Input data processed immediately
- Output (results) displayed on screen immediately

Interactive vs Batch Programs

Batch programs

- Process large volumes of input at periodic intervals
- Input data read in from files
- Output written to files
 - Can be files on disk, print files, files to be transmitted to a remote location: but files.

Files, Records, Fields

- Field – a single data item: your name; salary;
- Record – everything to do with a specific topic, such as all the information about YOU to generate your pay check:
 - Your name, ssan, deductions, address, bank account number, hours worked, overtime hours....
- File – The grouping of individual records of all employees working in a corporation for whom you want to generate a pay check.
 - Typically read a single record, prepare the output, read next record, and continue until EOF.
- Book definitions: p. 21